What is claimed is:

1. A method of determining a spatial hierarchy for polygon data, comprising:

obtaining a switching range; and

determining a polygon density for the spatial hierarchy, by using the switching range and a cube-root scaling factor.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the cube-root scaling factor is determined based on an altitude parameter.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the spatial hierarchy is tile-based.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the polygon data corresponds to cultural features.

5. The method of claim 1 further comprising providing a user interface, wherein design parameters of the spatial hierarchy are obtained and/or modified through the user interface.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein a number of levels in the spatial hierarchy is obtained and/or modified through the user interface.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein an extent of tiles for each level of the spatial hierarchy is obtained and/or modified through the user interface.

8. The method of claim 5, wherein a critical size of polygonal elements to be inserted in each level of the spatial hierarchy is obtained and/or modified through the user interface.

9. The method of claim 5, wherein a switching distance for tiles of each level of the spatial hierarchy is obtained and/or modified through the user interface.

10. A system for determining a spatial hierarchy for polygon data, comprising:

a user interface; and

a feature analyzer for determining a polygon density for the spatial hierarchy, by using (i) a switching range obtained through the user interface and (ii) a cube-root scaling factor.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein the cube-root scaling factor is determined based on an altitude parameter.

12. The system of claim 10, wherein the spatial hierarchy is tile-based.

13. The system of claim 10, wherein the polygon data corresponds to cultural features.

14. The system of claim 10, wherein design parameters of the spatial hierarchy are obtained and/or modified through the user interface.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein a number of levels in the spatial hierarchy is obtained and/or modified through the user interface.

16. The system of claim 14, an extent of tiles for each level of the spatial hierarchy is obtained and/or modified through the user interface.

17. The system of claim 14, wherein a critical size of polygonal elements to be inserted in each level of the spatial hierarchy is obtained and/or modified through the user interface.

18. The system of claim 14, wherein a switching distance for tiles of each level of the spatial hierarchy is obtained and/or modified through the user interface.

19. A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for determining a spatial hierarchy for polygon data, the method steps comprising:

obtaining a switching range; and

determining a polygon density for the spatial hierarchy, by using the switching range and a cube-root scaling factor.

20. A computer data signal embodied in a transmission medium which embodies instructions executable by a computer for determining a spatial hierarchy for polygon data, comprising:

a first segment including user interface code; and

a second segment including feature analysis code to determine a polygon density for the spatial hierarchy, by using (i) a switching range obtained through the user interface code and (ii) a cube-root scaling factor.

21. A method of determining a spatial hierarchy for polygon data, comprising:

determining a cube-root scaling factor based on an altitude parameter; and

using the cube-root scaling factor to scale level-of-detail switching ranges for the spatial hierarchy.